

REMARKS

The Applicant affirms the election of claims 23-30 and has canceled claims 1-22 from the current application subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional application for these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 23 and 26-30 as being anticipated by Hicks. The Examiner also rejected claims 24-25 as being obvious in view of Hicks. In response to this rejection, the Applicant has amended independent claim 23 to specifically recite that the outer muntin grid element substantially surrounds the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the window when the muntin grid piece is installed. The Applicant submits that this amendment places independent claim 23 and its dependent claims in condition for allowance.

The muntin grid assembly of Hicks includes first and second pieces with both of the first and second pieces being intended to be viewed from opposite sides of the window. The first and second pieces of the Hicks device perform equal roles in the creation of the muntin piece and one does not substantially surround the other. Applicant's invention uses a structural inner muntin grid element with an aesthetically pleasing outer muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element. Only the outer muntin grid element is visible to a person looking at the window when the muntin grid piece is installed. The prior art fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this type of a muntin grid piece arrangement.

The Applicant further submits that dependent claims 24-30 are independently patentable but elects not to provide specific arguments at this time given the patentability of independent claim 23.

The Applicant has added new claims 31-49 directed to the use of the outer muntin grid element. Claims 31 and 32 depend from independent claim 33. Claim 33 is independent and is directed to the use of the inner and outer muntin grid elements in a simulated divided lite insulating glazing unit wherein the inner and outer muntin grid elements are disposed in the insulating chamber

consideration of claims 44-49 and submits that these claims are patentable over the art.

Independent claim 50 is directed to the use of a mechanical connection between at least one material strip and a muntin grid element in a muntin grid piece disposed in the insulating chamber of a simulated divided lite window such as, for example, the mechanical connections depicted in Figs. 22-26. In view of the claims issued in parent Patent 6,425,221, the Applicant will submit a Terminal Disclaimer that obviates any obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowance for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 19th day of November, 2002.

SAND & SEBOLT



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment A in application serial no. 09/775,074 filed February 1, 2001) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231, on
this 19th day of November, 2002.


Vicki L. Hartzell

Version of Amendments with Markings

23. (Once amended) A muntin grid piece adapted to be used to form a muntin bar grid for a window; the muntin grid piece comprising:

an inner muntin grid element;

an outer muntin grid element; and

the outer muntin grid element substantially surrounding [at least three sides of] the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the window when the muntin grid piece is installed.